



Health Analytics and Vital Records

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Alaska Facts and Figures

2016-2018 Drug Overdose Mortality by Six Month Intervals

Data Summary

- There has been a decrease in the number and age-adjusted (AA) rate of drug overdose deaths overall from the first half of 2016 (70 deaths, 9.5 per 100,000) compared to the first half of 2018 (46 deaths, 6.1 per 100,000).
- For opioid overdose mortalities, the pattern is similar to all drug overdoses. Opioid overdose AA mortality rates decreased by almost 50% between the first half of 2016 (55 deaths, 7.5 per 100,000) and the first half of 2018 (29 deaths, 3.6 per 100,000).
- However, these rates should be interpreted with caution because the apparent declines are based on only the most recent 6-month period.
 - Data for 2018 are preliminary.
- These numbers include deaths that occurred in Alaska, regardless of residence. Counts and rates may differ from reports that present deaths of Alaska residents.
- The current analysis only includes deaths with ICD-10 coding.

Opioid Overdose Mortality by Six Month Intervals, Alaska Occurrence (2016 - 2018†)

Cause of Death (ICD-10 Codes) ¹	Six Month Intervals									
	01/01 - 06/30 2016		07/01 - 12/31 2016		01/01 - 06/30 2017		07/01 - 12/31 2017		01/01 - 06/30 2018†	
	Deaths	AA Rate ²	Deaths	AA Rate ²						
Drug Overdoses (X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, Y10-Y14) ¹	70	9.5	59	7.7	63	8.2	78	11.1	46	6.1
Opioid Overdoses (T400-T404, T406)	55	7.5	41	5.5	44	5.8	56	7.8	29	3.6
Heroin (T401)	23	3.1	26	3.5	16	2.1*	20	2.8	11	1.4*
Opioid Analgesics/Pain Relievers (T402-T404)	37	5.0	22	3.0	35	4.5	40	5.5	25	3.0
Prescription Opioids (T402-T403)	35	4.8	18	2.4*	22	2.8	28	3.9	20	2.4
- Natural and Semi-Synthetic Narcotics (T402)	31	4.2	15	2.0*	20	2.5	26	3.7	17	2.1*
- Methadone (T403)	11	1.5*	3	**	4	**	4	**	6	0.8*
Non-Methadone Synthetic Opioids, including fentanyl and analogues (T404)	4	**	4	**	20	2.6	17	2.3*	7	0.8*
Other and Unspecified Narcotics (T406)	18	2.6*	8	1.0*	10	1.4*	14	2.0*	7	0.9*

1. Total drug overdoses are defined by underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes. Drug subcategories are based on contributing cause of death ICD-10 codes. Subcategories are not mutually exclusive, and deaths can include more than one drug (e.g. heroin and fentanyl may both listed as a cause of death).

2. Events per 100,000 population per 6-month period; age adjusted (AA) to year 2000 standard population.

† 2018 data are preliminary and number may change.

* Rates based on fewer than 20 events are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

** Rates based on fewer than 6 events are not reported.